62. Communications in the Ambalapuzha taluk.

MR. K. SANKARA PANIKKAR (*Member, Ambalapuzha taluk, Group II*) urged the need for the conversion of the pathway from Mannanchery to Kalavur into a cart road. Mannanchery was a landing place and from there articles for the use of the inhabitants in the interior had to be taken by head-loads. The transport charges were so heavy as to raise the prices of the articles to twice their usual prices. Not only that, the path itself was sandy rendering even walking very difficult.

There was also no proper road from Mannanchery to Alleppey. That locality too was sandy and traffic was very difficult. A cart road connecting the two places should therefore be opened soon. The work had already been begun and it should be completed without delay.

There was a pathway from the Vada *todu* at Alleppey leading to Kottankulangara along the western side of the buildings of Messrs. Pierce Leslie and Co. But it was unfit for traffic, being too sandy. It should be metalled and rendered fit for cart traffic.

Similarly, the pathway from the District Court at Alleppey to Tattampalli backwater was also unfit for traffic. It should also be metalled and improved.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Sankara Panikkar, in regard to the first two items of your representation, that is, the road from Alleppey to Mannanchery and from Mannanchery to Kalavur, I am glad to tell you that it is possible to meet your wishes in the matter of gravelling the roads and making them fit for cart traffic.

In regard to the other two matters, I have to say that they are matters in which the Municipality is also concerned and the custom in such cases is for the Municipality to make proposals to the Government.

63. Public Offices in Kottayam.

MR. CHERIYAN K. VARGHESE (*Member, Municipal Council, Kottayam*) emphasised the need for locating the public offices, especially all the law courts, in Kottayam in one and the same place. An extent of 10 acres of land had been acquired at a cost of Rs. 52,000 during the regime of Dewan Sir P. Rajagopalachariar with the object of locating all the public offices there ; but in spite of the lapse of time, the object had not been fulfilled and consequently, the members of the local bar and bench and the litigant public were put to much inconvenience. The Accommodation Committee, appointed during the regime of Dewan, Dewan Bahadur Raghaviah recommended the location of all civil courts in one and the same place, but they ignored the criminal courts. The District Magistrate's Court and the First Class Magistrate's Court were located so dangerously near the Palace buildings that they were found to be a nuisance during the recent stay of Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent there.

The Munsiff's Court was situated nearly a mile west of the District and Sessions Court and the Taluk Cutcherry was also located in the same premises. The Second Class Magistrate's Court was a furlong south of the Munsiff's Court. The District Magistrate's and the First Class Magistrate's Courts referred to above were 1½ furlongs south of the Second Class Magistrate's Court. On account of the scattered location of the courts, the vakils and the clients were put to many difficulties and inconveniences. A vakil, who had to appear in all the courts on the same day, found it difficult to do so, with the result that cases so posted were decided *ex parte*. The presiding officers also were put to much inconvenience on account of the absence of the vakils when the cases were called. That was one of the chief reasons for the delay in the disposal of cases in the Kottayam courts. If the courts were all located in one and the same place, the difficulties pointed out would disappear. The vakils would not then have to run from one court to another far away and the presiding officers also would not be obliged to wait indefinitely or adjourn the cases on account of the absence of the vakils in time. It would also have indirectly a steadying effect on the presiding officers and staffs of the surbordinate courts as they would be compelled to attend courts punctually at office time and thus help the quicker and larger disposal of cases.

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